

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An airflow control mechanism is provided to control the flow of air through an opening formed in a portion of a cowl of an outboard motor. The airflow
5 control mechanism is configured to be moveable between a first position and the second position to affect the magnitude of air flowing through an air passage defined as being the space between the opening formed in the cowl and an exit through which the air can leave the cavity of the cowl. The airflow control
10 mechanism can control the flow of air as a function of an operating characteristic of the engine, such as its operating speed, the load on the engine, or the operating temperature of the engine.